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1-19 (CANCELED).

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for one of strapping and bundling of one of pallets and articles, the apparatus having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed around one of the pallets and articles and having a closure device for subsequent tensioning and closing the packaging band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least some weight of the closure device (3), the guide device (2) has a guide element (5, 16) mounted for pivoting about a horizontal axis (14), ~~[[which]]~~ with the closure device (3) supported adjacent to an end of the guide element (5, 16) to facilitate movement of the closure device (3) about the horizontal axis (14) and to facilitate linear movement of the closure device (3) toward and away from the horizontal axis (14).

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) has a linear guide (4) which at one end thereof supports the closure device (3).

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the closure device (3) is arranged such that the closure device (3) is movable on a linear guide (4) via a joint element (7).

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a damping element (10) is arranged between the linear guide (4) and the joint element (7) for providing desired alignment of the closure device (3).

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the joint element (7) has two holes (11) which are offset by 90° with respect to one another so as to vary alignment of the closure element (3).

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) can pivot only within a predetermined angle range, of a maximum of about 45°, about a vertical axis (8b) of the joint element (7).

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) is connected to the joint element (7) by a detachable connection.

27. (CANCELED)

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28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for one of strapping and bundling of one of pallets and articles, the apparatus having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed around one of the pallets and articles and having a closure device for subsequent tensioning and closing the packaging band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least some weight of the closure device (3); the guide device (2) has a guide element (5) for bearing and supporting a linear guide (4), and the guide element (5) is mounted such that the guide element (5) can pivot about a horizontal axis (14).

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the guide device (2) is connected to the strapping device (1) by a bracket.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein a damping element (15) is arranged between the bracket (6) and the guide element (5, 16) to support at least some weight of at least one of the closure element (3) and the guide device (2), and for alignment of the linear guide (4).

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the linear guide (4) is a rail, and the guide element (5) has rollers (13) for guiding and bearing against the linear guide (4).

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the guide element (5) is arranged in an inclined orientation so as to prevent the linear guide (4) from inadvertently moving in a direction of one of the pallets and articles.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the closure device (3) is an electrical hand-held appliance.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein a damping element (15) is arranged between a bracket (6) and the guide element (5, 16) for supporting at least some weight of one of the closure element (3) and the guide device (2) and each damping element comprises a compressed gas cylinder (10, 15).

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35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with at least one of a spacer (17) and a distance gauge.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) is a joint device (16) provided with damping elements (10, 15).

37-39. (CANCELED)

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide element is a joint device (16).

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